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Marlborough will soon lose one of its veteran school administrators. Principal Loraine Giannini, who has worked at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School for 13 years, will retire in June.

## Principal Says Goodbye to Marlborough

by Katy Nally

Children will remember her bright smile, her stash of 101 penguin figurines and toys and her ubiquitous presence throughout Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

Principal Loraine Giannini, who has presided over the Marlborough elementary school for the past 11 years, and worked for two years as assistant principal, will say goodbye to students and staff June 30.

In retirement, Giannini said she would miss her co-workers and the students most of all. "The sunshine in your day is to walk out and visit a classroom," she said. The children are "warm no matter where you go."

As a principal, Giannini didn't have the same interaction with students that teachers have, but during her time at the school, she has formed lasting bonds with a few alumni. Giannini remembered one kindergartener who left a letter in her mailbox about once a week for the entire school year. She said the student became busier in first grade, so the letters stopped, but the two were still able to establish a connection through the correspondence.

"She could write enough, and I could understand her inventive spelling," Giannini recalled with a smile. "That didn't happen with any other

child."

Like the little kindergartener, now other students write Giannini letters through the Wee Deliver program and address them to her mailbox at Main Meadow, Penguin Park. Special education students retrieve the inter-school mail, sort through it, and distribute it, she said. Many of the same students also write letters. "They say interesting things and it gives me a chance to answer their questions," she said.

Giannini still meets with one special education student about three times a year. Giannini said she first met the then fourth-grader when she was working as a teacher in Wallingford. She said the girl had "very, very significant needs," and was working to maintain eye contact. But, fortunately, during fourth grade the student made a big improvement, Giannini said.

Now that student is 25 years old and works as a teacher's assistant, Giannini said. "It's wonderful finding out that you have children who are successful," she said.

Giannini has a fluffy token to remember that student by – a stuffed penguin named Muffles. Muffles sits in Giannini's office in his own chair, surrounded by 100 other pen-

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## AHM Telethon Celebrates Twenty Years

by Lindsay Fetzner

Next Thursday will kick-start the 20th annual AHM Youth and Family Services telethon, an event staff and volunteers at the regional agency say is its largest and most important fundraiser of the year.

The goal for this year's telethon is \$65,000, a figure many believe is attainable. AHM was able to raise that amount last year over the course of the telethon, according to AHM Financial Director Nella Stelzner.

The telethon is held in each of the three towns AHM serves – Andover, Hebron and Marlborough. This year, the Andover portion will take place May 4-6. The Hebron one will take place on May 3-6, and the Marlborough end will take place April 29 and May 3, 5 and 6. On these days, volunteers from each community will gather in the evening at their respective town halls to call residents and solicit donations.

The telethon was started 20 years ago by Marlborough resident Robert McBair, who saw AHM's need for increased funding. Patricia Morency, chair of the telethon, referred to McBair as the "mastermind" of the operation.

Although AHM held several smaller fundraisers at the time, they did not yield substantial results. McBair said the idea to call residents from Town Hall to raise money took off, and the telethon has been successful ever

since. "Every year, we top the year before," he said.

Stelzner said the telethon raises funds "for the whole operating budget" and for all of the programs that AHM offers – including the teen center, social work services, family resource center, family counseling, summer youth theatre and more. "You can't put a price on the services they offer," Morency said.

Brenda Bula, a Marlborough resident and member of the AHM board, said nearly 50 percent of the youth service bureau's budget is raised through donations or grants, proving just how important this year's telethon is.

Morency said she started attending AHM with her daughter, now a student at RHAM Middle School, when she was three months old. The Morency family has "stayed heavily involved" with AHM over the years and views events such as the telethon as a way "to give back" and "to pay it forward," she said. "We believe that we have to make a difference while we are here," she said. "And that is why we volunteer."

The telethon, Morency said, "is a true community effort" that is able to happen because of the countless volunteers and time they donate to the cause. "We do it all as a team," she said. Morency also credited the AHM office staff, who she said are "amazing" and "work

countless hours" to keep the programs and services AHM offers today a possibility.

With the current state of the economy, Stelzner said people are utilizing AHM's services more and more. Bula said there is irony in the situation, because "when the economy is bad, it's hard to raise money." However, "that's when the services are most needed," she said. In light of the hard times many are facing, Bula said, "we are just so honored that people kept us at the top of our list to support because they realize how important our services are to the community."

"AHM is needed more than ever because of these economic times," Morency said. "It's neighbors helping neighbors." She said even the smallest donations add up and help to reach the overriding goal.

Andover resident Dianne Grenier said she is "very grateful for any donations." "Times are tough," she said. "We are not twisting the screw too hard here." She said that many people realize that others are going through difficult times, and as a result, "step up their contribution levels."

Grenier, who helped to start the telethon in Andover, said its main ingredient is the volunteer callers. However, she said, "there is something for everyone" to do, be it donating food and drinks, or filling envelopes with pledge

cards.

"We are a team of individuals that make up this amazing team, that makes this telethon happen," Morency said.

Younger volunteers, too, many agree, keep the telethon fun and lighthearted. Joleen Yorio, a Hebron resident, said the telethon is a "win-win" with the younger generations, as they "get so much out of getting to support." Yorio said the energy and enthusiasm from everyone at the telethon "is wonderful."

Over the years, Yorio, who has been on the board for over 10 years, said Hebron has been "very blessed with the people that have come forward throughout the years when we've been in need." Like Morency, Yorio stressed that any donation, of any amount, is welcome and that every bit counts toward working to the bigger goal.

Since Andover is smaller than Hebron and Marlborough, only three days are needed for their telethon. Grenier said Andover's goal is to reach every household in town, and "is grateful for any and all support."

"AHM is a wonderful organization," she said. "And all the money raised stays right here in town to help local people." Grenier said the funds raised help to support AHM's services, but also "keep our tax dollars here at home."

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## Spring Home & Garden Section Inside

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guin figurines.

Once, when she taught in Wallingford, Giannini told her students she thought penguins were “the most adorable creatures,” and ever since, the Antarctic animal has followed the principal. Now students will come into her office and drop off a new creature for her collection. “I’ve never purchased a penguin,” she noted.

When Giannini retires in June, she will take her penguins with her, and leave behind 21 years of experience in the world of education. Before teaching, she held a previous position in business, but was convinced to earn her teaching degree and work at an elementary school. Since then, she’s “never looked back,” she said.

She began working in Wallingford where she taught fourth and fifth grade for eight years. From there she became assistant principal in Marlborough, and two years later, she acquired her current position as principal. Giannini said her transition from teacher to administrator was somewhat challenging. “You’re now the evaluator, the coach, the supporter,” she said. “You’re role changes dramatically.”

But Giannini won’t completely depart from education when she retires. One of her passions is mentoring, which she first began to do in Wallingford with first-year teachers. “It’s near and dear to my heart,” she said. “I’m passionate about being there and offering an experience.”

Now she works with students who are learning to become school administrators. Giannini helps fledgling principals to build a portfolio and understand the work responsibilities. “That’s the direction I’d like to continue to take,” she said.

Giannini has also been looking into teaching overseas, specifically in Tanzania, through the program Pocket Full of Joy. Charlotte Hunter, founder of the organization, recently came to the elementary school for Multi-Cultural Day. Giannini said Hunter is looking for teachers to work at new schools in Tanzania and when Giannini offered her expertise, Charlotte said, “I’ll be calling you.”

Although Giannini’s expertise will depart

from Marlborough and perhaps move to Tanzania, she has managed to leave quite the legacy behind.

When Giannini began working at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall as the assistant principal, her “first big charge” was to initiate an enrichment program, so she visited other exemplary elementary schools to get some ideas. During her time exploring these schools, Giannini said she made it her goal to put Marlborough on this list of excellence.

Throughout her time at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall, Giannini was able to achieve her goal. The school was named the 2008-09 Elementary School of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) and it was recognized for its school climate practices in 2008 by the same organization.

The school had to meet several criteria to win the ‘school of the year’ recognition, including: providing education for all students’ needs, going beyond a typical school day and a welcoming atmosphere. CAS said it awarded Marlborough because staff members “focus on their students being successful students and citizens,” a newsletter read.

“‘Children First’ has really been our slogan in the 13 years I’ve been here,” she said.

Other than the school’s recognitions, Giannini noted another accomplishment during her time at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall: the Pride Assemblies. When she started in Marlborough, students and staff had to gather outside for assemblies because there was no facility to accommodate the 650-670 students, she said.

When the school underwent its renovation several years ago, the community room was built and now Pride Assemblies occur once a month to celebrate the achievements of students. “I don’t know if the community really realizes what a gift that was,” she said. “It’s wonderful to be able to do that.”

Giannini will leave the Marlborough community come June, but her accomplishments and relationships will still endure in her absence. “It’s a pretty emotional thing,” she said about leaving. “I love this school and I love this community.”

### Telethon cont. from Front Page

In addition, Grenier said the telethon serves as “an educational outlet,” informing the public about the different programs AHM offers. When the telethon first started, Grenier said many people were not aware of what AHM offered, but now, “we get very little of that.”

In light of more people using cell phones than landlines, McBair said, it has become more difficult to contact people, and said he is not sure what the future will bring. Grenier agreed with McBair, and said that the combination of answering machines and cell phones have made reaching people hard in the past. “We are always competing with people’s time,” she said.

In a press release, AHM board members ask, “Please answer your phones during this year’s telethon.”

According to AHM, it takes 75 volunteers to cover the shifts in the three towns, which are organized by each respective town’s committees. In Andover, chairs are Dianne Grenier and Kay Corl. In Hebron, it is Joleen Yorio and Lauren Whitesell. In Marlborough Brenda Bula, Erin Pase and Craig Williams are on the committee.

For more information on the AHM or the telethon, call 860-228-9488 or visit [www.AHMYouth.org](http://www.AHMYouth.org).

## RHAM Alumni Staying True to Their School

by Katy Nally

Although they graduated high school over 40 years ago, in the summer of ‘69, and it’s not quite the same RHAM they remember, seven lifelong friends are still dedicated to their alma mater.

The seven alumni, plus one more from RHAM’s first graduating class, the Class of 1958, comprise the RHAM Alumni Committee. Together they raise money for Project Graduation – the annual drug- and alcohol-free party held for seniors the night of their graduation – as well as a scholarship fund. “It was almost a forgone conclusion to help out with RHAM,” committee member John Gregory said.

This year, a rock ‘n roll dance is scheduled for Saturday, May 22, from 6:30 p.m.-midnight at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron, to raise money for RHAM students.

Unlike when the eight alumni attended RHAM, now the high school has a track, a football field and an “auditorium that rivals the Hartford Stage in my opinion,” Gregory said. “I remember a lot of hours of looking at the black board,” he added. “But through it all, I had a lot of good times.”

Because the eight alumni still have “strong ties” to their high school, they have been fundraising for RHAM for over 10 years, committee member Rob Gasper said. “Because we’ve been fortunate enough to go through the ranks,” the group now helps current students do the same, Gregory said. “It’s a matter of giving back,” Gasper added.

The first celebration organized by the group was in 1997 and marked RHAM’s 40th anniversary. Committee member Bob Gonci, from the class of ‘58, explained RHAM’s cornerstone was laid in 1957.

In 2008 the committee held the first Hebron Rocks dance and raised over \$2,000, Gonci said. Hebron Rocks II is this year, so the alumni group can replenish its scholarship fund.

Each year the eight alumni award one RHAM High School student a scholarship. Gregory said they award applicants who partake in many community service projects and afterschool activities. “They’ve got to have a balance of all the things we’re looking for,” he said.

Past candidates have been class officers, members of various clubs and committees, have volunteered at soup kitchens, senior centers and the Hebron Maple Fest, just to name a few accomplishments.

“It doesn’t seem possible they can spend that much time helping and assisting people,” Gasper said. Gonci called the applicants’ amount of community and school service “mind-boggling.”

The students in line for the scholarship go through three rounds of scrutiny, Gregory said. Sometimes it’s difficult for the committee to make a decision, because many of the candidates are “extremely deserving,” he said.

Usually the committee hears back from scholarship winners who say the money helped them during their freshman year of college. Gregory said he was happy to be a part of something that allows students to “achieve their dreams” and “reach their goals.”

This year will mark the second rock ‘n roll dance to raise money. The committee hopes to continue this trend and hold a fundraising dance every two years.

While Gregory, Gasper and Gonci are the founding members of the RHAM Alumni Committee, the three men enlisted the help of four women from the 1969 class to help organize



**The RHAM Alumni Committee will host the Hebron Rocks II dance at Blackledge Country Club, May 22. Pictured above are people who attended the rock ‘n roll fundraising dance in 2008.**

the dances. “We needed the women’s expertise,” Gasper said.

“It’s fun to set something up and see people have fun at it,” committee member Carol Groves said. “It’s rewarding.”

Like the 2008 dance, this May event will have a rock ‘n roll theme and the band The Rockin’ Heartbeats will perform music from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Door prizes, light refreshments and hors d’oeuvres will be available.

“The main thing is, it’s for a good cause and

it’s a lot of fun,” Groves said. At the 2008 dance, she added, “many people walked up to me and said they had a great time.”

Tickets for the dance are now available for \$30 and can be purchased by calling Gonci at 860-228-3388, Gasper at 860-228-3325, Gregory at 860-295-8484, Carol Palen at 860-295-9299 and Groves at 860-759-9544. They will not be sold at the door.

Other committee members include Robin Hodge, Linda Venoit and Ed Foote.

# Colchester Selectmen Hear From Commission Chairs

by Katy Nally

Selectmen heard updates from various commission chairs last Thursday, before the board's regularly scheduled meeting.

At the meeting that followed, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved the purchase of a \$41,000 tractor with a wide-width mower attachment for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) Chair Joseph Mathieu said he was pleased to announce an appeal has not been filed against the approval for the big-box development. He said this was "very good news in terms of the parcel on Parum Road," adding "the bleeding of legal funds at least has stopped with respect to that parcel."

Project plans call for a big-box anchor store, along several smaller ones, to be built in between Parum and Chestnut Hill roads. It is a 253,000-sq. ft. development on a 72-acre commercially-zoned plot, but no tenants have been announced.

The PZC approved the plans in February by a vote of 4-1, but the commission has been working on this application since 2002, when it was first approved.

That same year John Fedus, a neighboring property owner, sued the PZC claiming the commission acted illegally by going against its regulations.

The case bounced around several courts and Fedus won the last appeal in 2009. As a result,

the PZC changed some of its regulations, such as those dealing with drainage and the way state and federal approvals of projects influences the town PZC's actions.

Mathieu also mentioned the PZC would undergo a "comprehensive review" of its zoning regulations in the coming months.

Overall, Mathieu said the construction and building applications in Colchester is "a very good sign in terms of what this town has done to encourage development."

Later on, the BOS heard from Youth Services Advisory Board Chair Tom St. Louis, who said the board's "biggest need right now" is a van. Youth Services' current van, St. Louis said, is "pieced together with paper clips and scotch tape." The board has done "a lot" of fundraising for a replacement, but "\$200-\$300 at a time takes a long time to get a van," St. Louis said.

One idea the board is toying with, is to get a local sponsor of the new van. St. Louis said the new vehicle could wear a sign on the back stating "proudly donated by..." "It's something we'd like to pursue," he said.

Lastly, Board of Finance member Rob Tarlov commended the BOS for keeping the "expense side" of the town's portion of the 2010-11 budget down. "The real problem this year was the revenue side," Tarlov said, adding, "the expense side was pretty lean."

At a public hearing on Monday and Tuesday, April 25 and 26, the finance board will

present a budget that is about 3 percent higher than the 2009-10 package, Tarlov said. The town operations budget represents a 1.68 percent increase, and the education budget, a 3.3 percent increase. Despite the increases, Tarlov said there have been "major" cuts to programs and services, and reiterated the revenue shortfall.

The last reductions made to the education budget included cutting 10 athletic teams; six from Bacon Academy and four from William J. Johnston Middle School, reducing funds for library books at all four schools and decreasing funds for capital improvements.

On the town side, funds for the fire department and Cragin Memorial Library were decreased. First Selectman Gregg Schuster said he found some savings through purchasing new vehicles, which cuts down maintenance costs, and through lower-than-projected insurance rates.

Schuster and the BOS unanimously approved the purchase of one of these new vehicles, after the commission chairmen meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Jay Cohen said the \$41,000 tractor would replace an older model that was "down as much as it was up" last year, he said.

The new vehicle will be "going virtually all the time" from April to October, Cohen said. Just mowing alone, the Parks and Rec. Department "actively maintains" between 50 and 60

acres of fields, he added. "We have a lot of land we're responsible for," Cohen said.

By purchasing a new tractor, Cohen said the department could cut down on vehicle maintenance costs and staff time spent fixing the current model.

"Having heard all the presentations, this makes a lot of sense," selectman James Ford said. The purchase was recommended by the BOF at its March 17 meeting.

Schuster rounded out the meeting by recusing himself from a potential lawsuit that involves a property owned by his relative. He designated selectman Stan Soby to represent the BOS.

According to a notice of injuries on file at Town Hall, John Matheson, of 13 Chestnut Hollow, was walking on the sidewalk on Chestnut Hill Road, adjacent to the property at 584 Norwich Ave., in January when he slipped on ice and snow and fell. Matheson suffered injuries to his head and back, the report said. The notice did not indicate what type of compensation, if any, Matheson is seeking.

Soby said the property listed in the report is owned by Schuster's grandmother, who is Sidney Einhorn, according to phone listings. "I certainly hope Mr. Matheson has recovered from whatever injuries he's sustained," Soby added.

The next regularly scheduled BOS meeting will be Thursday, May 6.

# Hebron Residents Air Budget Grievances One More Time

by Lindsay Fetzner

Last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was its last before the May 4 budget referendum, and several residents took advantage of this fact to voice their concerns about the proposed 2010-11 spending plan, paying particular attention to the Board of Education portion.

Harvey Desruisseaux expressed his disappointment with the public hearing held last Tuesday evening and said he felt the Board of Finance (BOF) "went in with their minds made up" and "did not listen" to the public's comments. He said he has a lot of respect for the BOS, because the members "do listen, do consider and do go into deliberation."

"My judgment is that this referendum is going to be voted down by numbers we have never seen before," he said. "We need bifurcation and I think bifurcation is the answer."

Desruisseaux said one of the advantages bifurcation would present is that the Board of Education (BOE) would stand on its own merit, and if this particular budget was of concern to residents, the BOF would know. "It behooves you to convene a new charter revision commission," he said.

Donna McCalla spoke out against the expansion of the all-day kindergarten (ADK) program. "I think what is happening in this town is that the people are very torn," she said. "They support the general government budget, the CIP budget, some support RHAM, but many don't support the [local] Board of Education."

She said she would not support a budget that reduces Challenge & Enrichment (C&E), a program that she feels very strongly about. In addition, McCalla said she would not support a budget with a non-required program, such as ADK. "This is not the time," she said. "Maybe when the economy recovers."

McCalla described RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski as "totally transparent." "If you ask questions, you have answers and data," she said.

Linda Bulkovitch agreed with McCalla, and said that Siminski "has done an excellent job" providing "up front ... black and white ... sheer" data related to the budget.

The Hebron BOE budget, however, Bulkovitch said, is where her concerns lie. The BOE "plans on sending it to referendum with a big question mark," she said, as the board has not voted or endorsed any reductions to reach the 1.5 percent increase. "I need to know and

deserve to know how these cuts will affect my family."

Bulkovitch said she asked Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz questions regarding the budget and "her responses gave me more questions than answers." In addition, Bulkovitch said she was tired of the BOE "simply saying 'yes' or 'no' without saying why." She said the BOE's public comment at their meetings is "ineffective" because the board does not address the public. "If you make a public comment, you are entitled to a public response," she said.

At the May 4 referendum, Bulkovitch said, "I will be voting 'no' because I have no idea what I'm voting for."

Marie Egbert too had concerns with the BOE and the lack of information on the budget. "People who live in town can't get information from the BOE or administration," she said. Egbert noted that copies of the proposed budget had been removed from the school system's website last week. "These people are playing games and we are not a threat to them," she said. "They do what they want."

Cruz said Monday that any materials "construed as persuasive" were removed from the website, including the superintendent's blog and any other materials that could be viewed as promoting the budget. She said the revised budget would be posted on the website "as soon as possible," and within "the next couple of days." (As of press time Thursday, the information was not yet on the site.)

Regarding the appointment of the new director of curriculum and technology at the last BOE meeting being present on the consent agenda, Egbert said, "this is not the way it should be run. ... There is no democracy."

Egbert also voiced her opinion on the ADK program, and said it will only benefit less than 10 percent of the total population.

Dave Morrison touched upon public comment in general, and said that it would behoove the chair or vice-chair of town boards to have the person speaking identify themselves as either an employee of the town or non-resident, if applicable. (Teachers at Hebron schools who are not residents of town have spoken at public meetings this budget season.)

In terms of the budget, Morrison said that although he would like to see it pass, "the way it ended up, I don't know if I can support it."

Earlier this month, the BOS agreed to conduct an exit poll at the May 4 budget referen-

dum. And at their meeting last Thursday, the selectmen looked at a draft version of the poll. Mulligan said the poll is completely voluntary and that all responses are confidential, as the poll states.

The poll asks whether residents voted 'yes' or 'no' on the town government, CIP and RHAM BOE budgets. Each of these three budgets, in addition to the Hebron BOE, are part of a second question, which asks whether residents felt each budget was too high, too low or acceptable. Other questions asked if the Hebron BOE budget and Open Space fund allocation should be voted on separately.

The last question addresses ADK and whether residents think the pilot should be expanded in the budget this year. Room for additional comments is available on the bottom of the poll as well. Mulligan asked about making the process as "non-political and painless" as possible.

Mulligan also said, in an effort to reach the voters during the day and also at night, the selectmen would ask for volunteers from town organizations in the near future for their help on May 4. She recommended putting together a schedule with shifts for people to work the polls. Although she would like to see the budget pass, "if it doesn't, we would like to gather information quickly," Mulligan said.

O'Connell urged people to take the time to give feedback when they are at the polls. Although he said many residents have sent e-mails to the board or voiced their opinions at the public hearing, the information on the poll is "much more specific" and "tells us where and what the concerns are."

Larson agreed, and said he was very pleased with the way the poll was presented. "We are elected to serve at the requests and the wishes of the people that put us in office," he said. "This is a tool to help us guide our future discussions. Without that input, we are working in a vacuum." Larson said without the public's feedback, "we can't make intelligent decisions based on what the people and the town want."

In addition to the poll being a useful tool for getting a grasp on where the public lies with this year's budget, Mulligan said it could be helpful in looking forward to crafting next year's budget.

"Take the time to vote and give your feedback because it's important," Mulligan told the audience.

Also at the meeting, the selectmen discussed

goals for the 2010-11 year. Selectwoman Gayle Mulligan said the list of goals needs to be both "obtainable and meaningful to the town." A draft list of the proposed goals had them broken down into the following categories: financial, economic, educational, recreation, open space, historical and community.

The board agreed to work further on the goals, identifying time commitments, strategies to pursue and possible outcomes, among other things. Some of the goals on the draft list had already been accomplished, such as hiring a new town manager and fire chief. (Town Manager Bonnie Therrien assumed her post April 12, while Fred Speno was appointed Fire Chief at the Jan. 21 meeting of the BOS.)

Mulligan stressed the importance of getting people involved in the community, to stay in town for services as opposed to traveling to surrounding towns, and to "enjoy what we have here," she said. She suggested that each BOS member identify their top five or six focuses from the list of goals.

Reviewing the goals halfway through the year was also recommended by Mulligan, in addition to acknowledging the goals that have been accomplished in the past. "We can look back at the year before and see what was accomplished, what needs to be continued and showcase the accomplishments from the goals," she said.

Selectman Brian O'Connell said it was important to realize that several of the goals were "very intensive in terms of man hours," many of which could take years. He said a BOS workshop "could be a good way" to begin finalizing the list of goals for the year. Incorporating time commitments and reexamining the goals to incorporate comments from the meeting was suggested by BOS member Dan Larson.

Therrien recommended that both she and the board work on the proposed goals together.

At the close of the meeting, Executive Assistant Donna Lanza gave an update on the 2010 census during the town manager's report. Hebron is not only higher than the national participation rate (67 percent), but also both the state (69 percent) and county (77 percent) participation rates.

The next BOS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m., at the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

# State Rules Against Hebron in Road Closure

by Lindsay Fetzner

In a decision released Monday, the state Supreme Court ruled that the town of Hebron does not have the right to close a road that provides access to a proposed development in Columbia.

The opinion by Chief Justice Chase Rogers stated that Wellwood Road in Hebron is the only source of access to a 188-acre parcel of land in Columbia, purchased in August 2004. The road runs from Route 66 to the town line between Hebron and Columbia, where it becomes Zola Road, which ends up in a dead end.

In April 2006, the Columbia Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) granted the application of Wellwood Columbia LLC and Ronald Jacques, managing member of Wellwood, to subdivide property that the company owned in Columbia. The intent was to turn the property into a residential retirement community, the opinion states.

Jacques said this week that the decision “confirmed what we believed all along,” later adding, “Hebron exceeded the authority to close and barricade the road.” If Hebron did not agree with Columbia’s PZC decision, which approved the subdivision, Jacques said there is a procedure in place where the town could have appealed the decision.

Columbia PZC member Ernest Starkel, who was also on the commission when it voted for the project in 2006, said the Supreme Court’s decision “was the only way it could have gone.” “We gave Mr. Jacques approval to build,” he said. “He has approval to do it.”

Starkel said the proposed development met the rules and regulations of the town. The developer’s engineer as well as the town engineer reviewed the plans, “and everything passed.”

The proposed development, Jacques said, was based on the recommendations of the town of Hebron, and “from the beginning, we sought their input and wanted to be a good neighbor.” The opinion states that a meeting with the Hebron town officials took place in April 2004, where concerns were raised regarding storm water runoff, water supply and septic services,

among other things. Officials claimed that because the sole access, at least initially, was in Hebron, the development did not comply with subdivision regulations, Rogers wrote. In August of that year, Wellwood Columbia, LLC purchased the property.

At a September 2005 Columbia PZC public hearing on the proposed subdivision, town officials from Hebron voiced concern on the property. They said the remote location of the subdivision, the effect of added traffic and the question of which town would provide emergency services were among their major concerns. Increased cost to Hebron for maintaining the road was also brought up.

Current Hebron Board of Finance member Mal Leichter said, “I believe the Columbia zoning board should never have approved it with one entrance.” Leichter asked, “How can you trap these people without more than one egress?”

Hebron Resident Vicki Avelis, who was chair of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) in 2005, said the board was concerned with the increase of services the town would have had to provide if the property was developed. She said it was the town’s opinion that the road was not the developer’s only access – abandoned roads or other land could have been utilized to reach the property. “There is a variety of access that could have brought [the developers] through Columbia,” she said.

Because the Hebron fire, police and EMTs are the closer to the property than their Columbian counterparts, Avelis said if a call came in, the town of Hebron would respond. “If a call comes in, we go,” she said. In turn, this could cost Hebron more money because they are the most direct route to the property.

Current BOS member Mark Stuart agreed and said town officials brought up having an alternate egress point from the property at the Columbia PZC meeting so that Columbia emergency personnel could reach the property. “Because of the situation, it would be unlikely that Columbia would get there first,” Stuart said.

“Unfortunately, in this situation, with the ruling as it came down, Hebron now finds itself in a situation where it will have to provide services without tax revenue,” Stuart added.

But, Starkel said, “Mutual aid is for everyone.” If one town does not have the manpower from their fire department, he said, many neighboring towns will respond and help.

Traffic was another concern Avelis discussed. “The road was developed for a much smaller use,” she said. Stuart described Wellwood Road as a hill, which is “windy” and “a typical New England rural road.” Avelis said when the development is fully built, it would cause traffic problems and that the town would probably be forced, at its own expense, to change the road in order to accommodate the traffic flow. Stuart said this would eventually fall upon the taxpayers.

Leichter said such expenses “should not be put on the shoulders of the Hebron taxpayers. That is unfair.”

Starkel said, though, “I don’t think that the traffic would be a big deal.” If each unit averaged two cars and there was a maximum of 15 units in the early construction phases, Starkel said that would only amount to 30 cars. “Wherever you go, you are going to get traffic,” he said.

In terms of what the town can or cannot do, Leichter said it seems there should be some way to recoup the additional expenses that will become not only short term, but also long term. Although he is not opposed to the idea of the retirement community in general, he is opposed to funding any road improvement that Hebron would be responsible for. “Let the state get involved,” he said.

In October 2005, one month after the Columbia PZC meeting, the Hebron BOS voted to close and barricade Wellwood Road after the Hebron PZC made the recommendation. The recent state Supreme Court decision voided this decision.

Since the selectmen’s vote prevented him from developing the property, Jacques later sued

the town. The plaintiffs sought an injunction to prevent the defendants from closing the road, as it would cause “irreparable harm” to the proposed project. When the action was filed, a “road closed” sign was posted at the end of Wellwood Road, Roger wrote in the opinion.

However, the court denied the request for the injunction, ruling in favor of the defendants in 2008. Judge Trial Referee Lawrence Klaczak stated in his ruling that the town of Hebron was “properly exercising their police power to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their town” when they closed the road, according to a July 2008 article of the *Rivereast*.

As a result, the plaintiffs appealed the decision, citing that the court “improperly denied” the request, according to the opinion.

In his opinion issued Monday, Rogers stated, “We agree that Hebron has the power to build roads within the limits of the town for the benefit of its own residents.” He went on to state, “That does not mean, however, that it has the power to close roads at the town border for the sole purpose of preventing residents of adjoining towns from using town streets. Town roads are for the benefit of the general public, not just the residents of the town.”

Stuart also mentioned that it has been speculated that the property doesn’t actually end on the town line, and that it falls short of the line. There has always been discussion on this, he said.

Overall, Stuart said, this entire development is “a concern and it’s been a concern for various boards and planning and zoning,” which were raised “at the appropriate meetings in Columbia” nearly five years ago.

“I am sure the judge made the proper decision under the law,” Leichter said, but is intent on the single-access point issue being looked at and remedied.

Starkel said, “Maybe [developers] will eventually get a road that comes out on Route 66.”

As for the future, Jacques said, “We are always open to working with the neighbors and the neighboring towns.”

## East Hampton Police News

4/7: Nicole Barber, 20, of 47 Mallard Cove, was involved in a one-vehicle accident on West High Street, two-tenths of a mile east of Middle Haddam Road, East Hampton Police said. Barber was issued a ticket for failure to drive right, police added.

4/8: Colin B. Shirshac, 27, of 81 Clark Hill Rd., was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating without insurance, failure to drive right, possession of narcotics, possession of narcotics with intent to sell, possession of a controlled substance and possession

of drug paraphernalia, police said.

4/9: Marie Sawrun, 35, of 10 Cone Rd., and Endre Farkas, 74, of 23 North Main St., were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Main Street, two-tenths of a mile north of Summit Street. Sawrun was arrested for following too closely and operating without insurance, police said.

4/14: Jonathan D. Ballard, 41, of 690 Middletown Rd., Colchester, was arrested for failure to drive right and operating under suspension, police said.

## Colchester Police News

4/12: Salvatore Branciforte, 29, of 256 Middlefield Rd., Middletown, was charged with conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary, two counts of third-degree burglary, second- and third-degree larceny and two counts of second-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

4/13: Christine Seitz, 50, of 100 Dean Rd., East Lyme, was charged with a license plate violation, DUI and risk of injury to a minor, State Police said.

4/13: David Legienza, 50, of 15 Berry Ln., was charged with failure to drive right and DUI, State Police said.

4/15: Ryan Henk, 19, of 297 Old Hebron Rd., turned himself in for third-degree burglary and

third-degree larceny, State Police said.

4/17: Sandra Garcia Galvin, 38, of 920 Riverside Dr., Apt. 8, Willimantic, was charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating without insurance, misuse of registration, driving without a license and having articles that obstruct the view of the road, State Police said.

4/18: Shelton Martin, 31, of 1238 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

4/18: Coty Nichols, 21, of 674 Deep River Rd., was arrested after striking a police officer with a lit cigarette, State Police said, and charged with assaulting an officer.

# Hebron Residents Meet New Town Manager

by Lindsay Fetzner

With almost a week under her belt, the new town manager, Bonnie Therrien, was welcomed by residents in town at a meet-and-greet celebration last Thursday, April 15. The well-attended gathering offered the public an opportunity to meet Hebron’s newest employee.

Therrien said her first week has been very busy, laden with meetings, introductions to department heads and the April 13 public hearing, among many others. Recalling on last week’s hearing, Therrien said she felt it was both “civil and respectful.”

She said her fellow employees have been very accommodating while going through her transition to Hebron, offering her support and assistance. “The staff has been great and helpful,” Therrien said last Thursday afternoon. She jokingly said one of the hardest things to get used to last week was none other than the telephone.

Therrien said one of the hurdles she will face early on is finishing off projects that have been in the works for a while. She also said she plans on taking a hard look at the town’s core ser-

vices. Board of Selectmen (BOS) Chair Jeff Watt proposed in late March of this year that work on the 2011-12 budget start immediately after the 2010-11 budget is passed. Watt proposed that Therrien start the process during June, identifying not only the core services but also the town’s priorities. Therrien said these initiatives would be done with the citizen’s input and help from the public. Watt recommended presenting the budget to the public no later than December.

Residents who attended the event, held at the Town Office Building, agreed that it would be the town’s finances that would pose the greatest challenge for Therrien. “She’s got a challenge on her hands,” said 46-year resident Jacob Yopp.

As a member of the Hebron Fire Department for 30 years, Patie Griffin said that, as a woman, she was “very excited” to have Therrien on board. (Therrien is Hebron’s first full-time town manager.) “It is a good thing,” Griffin said. Drawing on her experience in the department and in the town in general, Griffin noted the

strong camaraderie the town boasts and the fellowship Therrien is becoming a part of.

Gladys Bryant agreed and said, “I think it’s great” to have a new town manager. She commended Public Works Director Andy Tierney, Town Planner Mike O’Leary and Executive Assistant Donna Lanza – the trio that had served as the town management team for much of the past year – for their hard work and assuming the role of town manager, in addition to the responsibilities of their own regular jobs. “They did a good job,” she said.

Bryant said that, although there are “challenges with everything you do,” she said she felt “trying to get the budget back in order” was one of the main hurdles Therrien would have to tackle in her new role.

Bryant, a resident since 1965 and member of the fire department since 1984, said Hebron has gone through many changes over the years. “It is a small community,” she said, but has grown greatly over the years. “You used to walk down the street and know whoever you bumped into,” she said.

Therrien’s qualities, resident Elaine Wallace said, are very suitable for Hebron. “I am very impressed,” she said. “She is very up front and down to earth.” Wallace said a candidate’s background is very important when looking to fill a position, and Therrien, who has been town manager of Berlin and Wethersfield, as well as deputy city manager of Hartford, has “lot of experience to draw on.”

Wallace said she thinks building on the town’s economic development will be Therrien’s number one challenge over the next few years. Economic development is greatly needed, she said. Therrien has “done a lot with economic development in other places” and can draw on this experience to bring business into town.

Despite her busy schedule and getting accustomed to the new environment, Therrien is confident for the future. “It will take a month or so to iron things out,” she said, but as the summer months arrive, she said she will start tackling new projects.

# Building Administrator Marks 25 Years in East Hampton

by Claire Michalewicz

Jim Carey never expected to stay for long when he came to East Hampton to work as a building inspector, but he just celebrated his 25th anniversary of working with the town. For most of that time, he's been the administrator of the Building, Planning and Zoning Department, overseeing building and conservation in the town.

"They've kept me this long, so they must not hate me too much," Carey joked. "I took to the town, and the town took to me."

Twenty-five years ago, Carey was working as a building inspector in Simsbury when he joked to his boss about wanting to move to East Hampton because he liked fishing in the Salmon River. Within weeks, Carey said, a building inspector position in East Hampton was open, and Carey was hired. Carey moved to his current position after a few years, and he's been there ever since. In the time he's been working in the department, Carey has consolidated several town departments into one to make the building process more accessible for residents.

"I try to make things as easy as I can," he said. He explained his job is to educate people about the town's regulations, rather than punish them.

In the time he's been in Belltown, Carey has noticed major changes outside Town Hall as well. When he first came here, Carey said, the town's population was around 8,000, and the area was still largely rural. Now, with around 13,000 people, the town has expanded its commercial base and seen major improvements in the school system, Carey said. "It's been gratifying to see all those changes," he said, adding that the town has managed to maintain its original small-town character.

New England towns, Carey said, are sometimes resistant to change, and he's seen some people protest each major change in East Hampton. But he says the measure of the town's suc-

cess is that long-time residents still feel comfortable in town, and new residents are still drawn to East Hampton.

Carey said that his favorite part of his job is working with the people in East Hampton, both his coworkers at the town hall and the residents he's met. He said the employees in his department are close-knit, and he's had a good relationship with East Hampton's town managers.

Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe had equally positive things to say about Carey.

"He's one of the hardest working employees in the town hall," O'Keefe said. "He cares. He cares a great, great deal about the community."

Carey said he got into municipal work almost by accident – though he originally planned to be a Lutheran minister. Carey was teaching classes about construction before he started working with Simsbury, becoming the youngest building inspector in the state.

He said he never would have lasted this long in his job if people didn't get along so well. He said the political parties have been able to bring broad political ideas to the table without strictly adhering to party lines. Without political infighting, Carey said, the board has been able to focus on what's best for East Hampton.

"We've been very, very lucky," Carey said. "I've never had politics get in the way of the Planning and Zoning Commission."

Still, Carey said the hardest part of his job is balancing the interests of different people and departments within East Hampton to find policies that work best for everyone. The biggest challenges East Hampton will face in the future, he said, will be to make affordable housing available to more people, and to preserve the environment while still encouraging growth. Another goal is to create a centralized water supply.

Housing, he said, has always been a challenge. East Hampton's goal is to intersperse the



Building Planning and Zoning Department administrator Jim Carey recently celebrated a quarter-century of working in East Hampton.

affordable housing among more expensive houses, so that neighborhood residents are more diverse.

With the environmental issue comes a secondary challenge: cooperating with other towns in the region. New England, Carey said, has never been big on regionalism, and East Hampton has always been "fiercely independent."

"We do it our way," Carey explained, adding that even when East Hampton was much smaller, it still had its own police and fire departments, all funded by relatively low taxes. Working to preserve the Salmon River water-

shed, however, requires dialogue between towns, which Carey said could be difficult but rewarding.

Carey recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Connecticut Federation of Planning and Zoning Agencies. "That means I'm done," he joked about the award.

Actually, Carey said he's excited to stay in East Hampton for a few more years to see what happens in the future.

"I consider myself very, very, very fortunate to have been here as long as I have, and I hope to be here a little longer," he said.

## Marlborough Police News

4/14: Jason Larocco, 29, of 88 Mill Hill Rd., Colchester, was charged with failure to drive right and DUI, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

4/12: Frank Westervelt, 40, of 19 Card St., Willimantic, was charged with failure to appear, Portland Police said.

4/13: Marylou Gonzalez, 31, of 331 Park St., New Britain, was charged with second-degree identity theft, police said.

## Salem Police News

4/10: Joseph Sabat, 32, of 6 Bellevue Dr., East Hampton, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

## Hebron Police News

4/15: Country Farms Convenience Store on Main Street was broken into and \$550 was taken, State Police said. The incident was reported at 3 a.m.

4/15: Michael Barone, 49, of 25 Smith Farm Rd., Amston, was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree assault, State Police said.

4/15: Joseph Izzo, 70, of 27 Smith Farm Rd., Amston, was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree assault, State Police said.

# East Hampton Charter Changes Sent to Council

by Claire Michalewicz

East Hampton's Charter Revision Commission (CRC) voted Wednesday to send its proposed changes to the town's charter to the Town Council.

Some of the significant changes to the charter are a switch to four-year overlapping terms for Town Council members, and a clarified policy for replacing elected officials who resign. The commission also made several smaller changes throughout the charter, and changed the language to make it gender-neutral.

The commission formed earlier this year to review the town's charter, which had not been updated since 1987. At a hearing on Monday evening, they presented their changes and opened them up to public comment.

CRC Chairwoman Terry Concannon announced that the commission would not institute a proposed change that would require the Town Council to pass the budget after two failed referendums. When they presented this idea at a public hearing in March, many residents had protested. Concannon explained on Monday that the commission agreed that placing a limit on the number of referendums would limit the voters' rights.

The commission also presented the new procedure for replacing an elected official who resigns. The person's party will choose a replacement. If the person is unaffiliated, the Town Council will appoint a replacement. Before, the town had no clear rules for how to replace an official.

The commission had considered letting the Board of Education (BOE) continue replacing members the way it currently does, by interviewing potential candidates. But at their meeting on Wednesday, they decided to apply the rule to the BOE as well. Commission member

and Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel explained that it would be best to keep the rules consistent between boards.

At the hearing on Monday, BOE members had debated whether the new policy should apply to them as well. BOE Chairman Michael Vasquenza explained that he wouldn't mind adopting the same policy as all the other town boards. BOE member Don Coolican objected to the change for any of the town's boards, saying that the new policy would make the decision too partisan.

John Tuttle, CRC member and vice chairman of the Town Council, replied that replacing a member with someone from the same party would preserve the integrity of the election, and that interviewing people also raised questions of political bias.

"You didn't get elected because you're a Democrat, John. You were elected because you're a good man," Coolican replied, adding that many voters in the town are not affiliated with a party. The interview process, Coolican said, would let the boards choose the most qualified person.

"You're not giving the political parties enough credit," Tuttle replied.

Another proposed change would let residents elect Town Council members for four-year staggered terms, rather than the current system of two-year terms. The change would start in 2011, when four members will be elected for four-year terms and three members elected for two-year terms. Starting in 2013, all council members would serve for four years. Voters would then be able to vote for as many candidates as there are open positions in each election. The rules about minority representation would remain in place, only allowing five council mem-

bers from any one party.

Concannon explained that the commission had considered imposing term limits on board members, but decided that elections serve as "self-imposed term limits."

Coolican and fellow BOE member Joanne Barmasse asked the commission about the school board's term limits. The charter, commission member Julie Ciucias explained, makes no mention of term limits for the BOE, but Barmasse and Coolican replied that they thought that term limits applied to them.

"I got kicked off twice," Coolican said. Engel joked that the term limits were an "urban myth," but said that she thought the term limits came from a town ordinance. After the meeting on Wednesday, Engel explained that Town Clerk Sandy Wieleba had found the ordinance, and that the law would be removed so that none of the town's boards would have term limits.

In addition, the commission clarified language about Town Council members' eligibility to serve on other commissions. The new charter would allow former Town Council members to serve as volunteers on town boards and commissions in the two years after their council term ends. They will still be prohibited from holding a "position of profit."

Engel explained that the former system prevented people who were on the town council from putting their experience and energy to work in volunteer positions for the town. Another change involving the Town Council will allow them to set the referendum date, rather than holding a special town meeting to set it.

The commission considered implementing residency requirements for the public works director, chief of police and emergency management director, but decided not to. Commis-

sion members also removed language requiring the town manager to move to East Hampton within a year of being hired. Concannon explained that the residency requirements could have a negative effect on the pool of qualified candidates, and were unnecessary because of technology.

The commission also proposed some more minor revisions to the charter. Unlike the previous version of the charter, which only used masculine pronouns, the new version has entirely gender-neutral language. The commission also removed ambiguous wording about the Planning and Zoning Commission, and clearly defined who is eligible to vote at a town meeting.

The revised charter would also put a \$15,000 threshold on public easements that require a town meeting. Projects that cost less than \$15,000 would only need approval from the Town Council, which Concannon explained would help the town move forward more efficiently. (Currently, there is no threshold for Public Works projects; all of them go to town meeting.)

In addition, the CRC added language requiring the town's charter to be reviewed and possibly revised at least every 10 years.

The commission's recommendations for the charter are available on East Hampton's website at [www.easthamptonct.org](http://www.easthamptonct.org).

The CRC will present its report to the Town Council at its meeting Tuesday, April 27. There will be a public hearing about the charter revision before the Town Council meeting on May 11. If the council accepts the proposed charter changes, East Hampton residents will vote on them Nov. 2.

# Marine Welcomed Home in Portland from Afghanistan

by Claire Michalewicz

A marine returning from Afghanistan got a warm welcome from his hometown before Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Lance Corporal Robert C. Ellam, who returned from Afghanistan three weeks ago, was honored for his service in a special ceremony. Members of Portland's Veterans' Affairs Commission congratulated Ellam, and State Representative Jim O'Rourke was also on hand to present him with a special citation from the State of Connecticut.

"It takes a lot of guts and courage to go over there and serve your country," O'Rourke said to Ellam. "I'm glad you're back in one piece."

Veterans' Affairs Commission Chairman Reg Farrington said he had seen many Portland residents serve in the military. "When they come home is the best time," Farrington said.

Ellam said that he joined the marines a couple of years after high school because his father and grandfather both served as well.

"It's tradition, I guess," Ellam said.

"And I just wanted to do something different," he added, explaining that he had been unsure what to do after graduating from high school.

In Afghanistan, Ellam drove fuel trucks for refueling helicopters and planes with the Marine Wing Support Squadron 372. He said he might be heading back to the Middle East at some point, but right now he's just shipping out to Camp Pendleton near San Diego.

Ellam said being back home in Portland was difficult to get used to at first, but he's glad that he could spend time with his family and friends.

His parents, Bruce and Maritsa, said that it will be a lot easier for them knowing that he's in California rather than Afghanistan.

"It's going to be so much easier to say

goodbye to him at the airport," Bruce Ellam said.

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The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) began with an executive session to discuss an appeal from Board of Education employee William Landers about what was described as a "personnel matter." No specific information was provided, and, after the selectmen spent nearly an hour behind closed doors, no action was taken on the matter.

At the public portion of the meeting, the selectmen voted to pass the town's water and sewer budget, which they are required to pass before May 1. The \$1.27 million budget includes an extra \$47,500 to replace the water system's telephone communication lines with a more advanced radio-based system.

Public Works Director Richard Kelsey presented his request for the extra money. Currently, Kelsey explained, the pumps communicate with each other using telephone lines, which frequently fail during bad weather or if a telephone pole is knocked down. When the lines go down, Kelsey has to bring in employees who work overtime to manually operate the system.

With the help of the Metropolitan District Commission, the regional water company, the money would be enough to install a radio system.

"I don't like coming to you with things like this," Kelsey said, but he explained that delaying these necessary updates could create more problems later. "That's why we fall behind, and we are falling behind."

Selectmen Carl Chudzick voted against the motion, explaining that the town needed a better long-term plan for the water system.

"We just can't do short-term plans like this,"



Before Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Lance Corporal Robert C. Ellam was presented with a special citation from the state to commend him for his service in Afghanistan. Pictured with Ellam are, from left, Veterans Affairs Commission member Bill Willinsky, State Representative Jim O'Rourke, commission chairman Reg Farrington and fellow member Don Hutchens.

Chudzick said.

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Also at Wednesday's brief meeting, the selectmen voted to extend Portland's contract with its current auditing firm, Carlin, Charron and Rosen. The board was also scheduled to discuss the ongoing process to choose members for the school facilities study committee, but this was postponed. First Selectwoman Susan

Bransfield asked that the selectmen e-mail her with any questions for potential committee members, as the BOS had been busy with the budget and had not had time to consider the issue.

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The next BOS meeting will be held Wednesday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m., at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

## Glastonbury Republican Announces Bid for State Office

by Chris Seymour

Glastonbury Republican Dr. Stewart "Chip" Beckett threw his hat into the ring last week as a candidate for the state legislature.

Beckett, a member of the Glastonbury Town Council, announced he will run for the Fourth District State Senate seat currently held by seven-term Democrat Mary Ann Handley, who is not seeking reelection. The Fourth District encompasses Marlborough, Glastonbury, Bolton and Manchester.

This is Beckett's second try for the seat. He ran against Handley four years ago, losing by less than 1,000 votes. (In 2008, Handley defeated Republican challenger David Blackwell of Manchester.)

Beckett announced his candidacy last Tuesday, April 13, on the Town Center Green in Glastonbury, cheered on by about 30 supporters.

With Handley on her way out, Beckett said there will be an opportunity for discussion in the district – something, Beckett said, "we haven't had ... for a very long time. Our current senator has been there 14 years," said Beckett. "So I hope this exploratory committee lets us get through the whole district, talk to people about Fourth District issues and how to solve them and what's best for the Fourth District."

A Glastonbury resident since 1971, Beckett has been a Town Council member since 2005. He currently serves as majority leader. A veterinarian, Beckett has operated his own practice in town since 1983. He also operates a farm in South Glastonbury.

Beckett said there are two topics he sees as major issues in the campaign. "First is the economy so that we get job growth back for all those unemployed and underemployed," he said.

"The second is to afford our government," Beckett continued. "To do that, we need to elect new legislators that provide public service to help the state, rather than viewing elected state work as the golden gravy train of retirement,



Beckett

healthcare and a permanent staff job after you leave elected office."

Beckett also emphasized the need for fiscal responsibility. If elected, he said he would like to first balance the budget – a feat he realized would not be easy. "We are going to collectively have to accept that we have only bad choices, and we have to pick the least bad among them," he admitted. "But, with a budget deficit facing us of over \$3 billion, the time has come to act."

The alternative, said Beckett, will be "state bankruptcy in the near term." He continued, "We have \$60 billion of unfunded liabilities and debt now."

Beckett also said he wants the state to do a better job enticing entrepreneurs to set up shop here.

"New businesses are where most job hiring comes from, and the owner is by definition self-employed," he observed. "We must find ways for talented and ambitious, adventurous people to take the considerable risks of starting a business in Connecticut rather than North Carolina, Texas or Indiana, so that we have the jobs and benefits of a growing, vibrant economy."

Beckett said he has been blessed with good fortune in his life, and thinks he "can help the state have a model for others to obtain the American Dream for themselves." He elaborated, "We have the same issues of an uncompetitive set of regulations and government in Connecticut as we did four years ago and that hurts our economy, destroying jobs and upward mobility of our citizens."

Beckett said he looks forward to hearing from voters in the district. "I hope to listen and talk with people over the next several weeks and see what their ideas are, and what they are willing to support," he said. "We have some really big problems, but they are solvable. Connecticut is a beautiful state with temperate weather, few natural disasters and a dynamic population. We have collectively said that whatever Hartford does does not affect us and we will go about our lives. What Hartford does matters, and regular citizens need to take their government back."

For more on Beckett, visit [www.beckettforsenate.com](http://www.beckettforsenate.com).

Chris Seymour is a reporter for the *Rivereast's* sister newspaper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*.

## LifeStar Responds to Two-Car Crash in Salem

by Katy Nally

A 25-year-old Groton woman was transported via LifeStar to Hartford Hospital, after hitting a tree, an embankment and another car Monday, April 12, at about 11:30 p.m., State Police said.

Megan Christina was driving a 1996 Nissan Maxima when she collided with Elizabeth Koneski, 66, of Wethersfield who was driving a 1992 Volvo, at the intersection of Route 85 and Skyline Drive.

Christina suffered a fractured neck and back, a punctured lung and a bruised heart as a result of the accident, Salem Volunteer Fire Company Chief Eugene Maiorano said. Koneski had minor injuries and was sent to

Backus Hospital, State Police said.

Maiorano said Christina's Nissan had front-end and rear-end, as well as side, damage. "It was smashed up pretty good," he added. Koneski's Volvo sustained minor damage, he said.

Maiorano said Christina's vehicle was stopped in the middle of Route 85, near the northern entrance to Skyline Drive. Route 85 was shut down and traffic was redirected for about an hour and half, the chief said.

As State Police are still investigating the incident, Maiorano could not say what caused the accident.

On **Thursday**, Christina was listed in stable condition, Hartford Hospital staff said.

## Colchester Man Charged With Firearm Abuse

by Katy Nally

A "very heavily intoxicated" man was arrested after reportedly firing a shotgun into the woods near his property on 357 Linwood Cemetery Rd., Colchester Police said this week.

At about 9:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, Keith Brown, 47, was arrested and charged with unlawful discharge of a firearm, carrying a firearm while intoxicated, breach of peace, criminal possession of a firearm and reckless endangerment, State Police said.

According to Officer Green of the Colchester Police, Brown's neighbor, and tenant, called in to report gunshots. Green said this was different than other reports of shots fired, because the caller actually "had eyes on the person" who was shooting.

Green said Brown was drunk at the time of the incident, and when police arrived, they

found him asleep in his truck with the shotgun next to him.

Brown had been drinking hard alcohol at his residence, and there were spent shotgun shells on the ground when Green arrived. At the time of Brown's arrest, the shotgun was not loaded, Green said.

Brown admitted to firing into the woods, Green said, and Brown also mentioned he was on his own property and planned to sue the cops.

He was later taken into custody without incident, Green said. State Police said Brown was unable to make the \$50,000 bond and appeared in Norwich Superior Court on Wednesday, April 7.

Brown did not have a permit for the shotgun, Green said, because of three past protective orders that were issued within the last year.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Dean G. Drouillard

Dean G. Drouillard, 49, of 91 S.E. Main St., Douglas, MA, formerly of Colchester, died Friday, April 9, at Massachusetts General Hospital, after an illness.

He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Diana I. (Rivera) Drouillard; his two children, George G. Drouillard and Monique D. Drouillard both at home; his father, Gordon Drouillard of Cornucopia, WI; a sister, Diane Ignazio of Colchester; his in-laws, Nestor and Edith Rivera of Tennessee; and several nephews, nieces, and friends.

Born in Norwich on Jan. 8, 1961, he was son of the late Barbara (Kendzior) Drouillard and lived in Douglas since 1988. Drouillard was Director of Business Development for Agion Corp. in Wakefield, MA, the past two years. Previously, he was a regional business manager for the bioMeriux Corp. for eight years. He was a 1979 graduate of Bacon Academy and a 1985 graduate of the University of Hartford. He coached both youth basketball and soccer and enjoyed fishing. He was a member of St. Patrick's Church in Whitinsville, MA.

His memorial funeral Mass was held Thursday, April 15, in St. Patrick's Church, 1 Cross St., Whitinsville, MA. Burial of remains was at St. Andrew's Cemetery in Colchester. There were no calling hours.

Donations may be made to the Dean G. Drouillard Memorial Fund Unibank for Savings, 4 Mechanic St., Douglas, MA 01516.

Jackman Funeral Home in Douglas, MA, directed arrangements.



## Colchester

### Armand R. Robert

Armand R. Robert, 94, of Colchester, passed away Friday evening, April 16, at Apple Rehab in Colchester with his beloved daughter, Suzanne Maikshilo, by his side. Born July 16, 1915, in Canada, he was a son of the late Joseph and Marie (Petit) Robert. Mr. Robert was a machinist in Rhode Island for many years.

The memorial liturgy will be celebrated 11 a.m. Saturday, April 24, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Inurnment will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester. There are no calling hours.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Sarah Granata Falcone

Sarah Granata Falcone, formerly of Westchester in Colchester, died peacefully at Woodlake at Tolland Healthcare Center on April 10.

Sarah was born in Rochester, NY on March 1, 1920. She married her long-time friend John Falcone in 1945 and celebrated 58 years of marriage.

Sarah was active in the community; she loved music and dancing, and was an accomplished piano player. She and John enjoyed square-dancing together and managed to square-dance at local clubs across the US and through Canada. Sarah was an active and faithful member of the Westchester Congregational Church in Colchester.

She is survived by her two children James Falcone and his wife Elsie of Nova Scotia, Canada; daughter Marilyn King and her husband John of New Jersey; four grandchildren James, Shannon, Shaina and Rebecca; and one great-granddaughter Navarre.

A lilac tree will be planted in her honor at the Buckingham Estates Memory Care Community on Saturday, April 24 and a memorial service will be held at the Westchester Congregational Church, 95 Cemetery Rd., Colchester, at 1 p.m., Saturday, May 8.

## Portland

### Louise M. Anderson

Louise M. Anderson, 90, of Portland, passed away Sunday, April 18, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital.

She was born on February 7, 1920, in a snow-storm, to Arvid and Hilda (Hanson) Anderson. She lived her entire life in the house where she was born. She graduated from Portland High School and Upsala College. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church where she was a faithful member of the Altar Society.

Always known as Aunt Weezie, she is predeceased by her beloved nephew Peter Kirsche and niece Karen (Kirsche) Miller. She is survived by her loving sister, Margaret "Peggy" Kirsche and her husband Richard "Dick;" her brother Charles "Bud" Anderson and his wife Lucille; nieces Paula Brown, Catherine Mullen, Nancy Anderson, Carol Castelli; and nephews John, Jeffrey, Daniel and Charles (Jr.) Anderson. She has many grandnieces and nephews who will miss her dearly for her loving involvement in their lives.

She never turned down a request for a ride or a favor and always had lunch or an after-school snack ready when needed. Louise taught English at Portland High School for 34 years. She seldom went anywhere without running into a former student who commented on how valuable her teaching was and how she helped prepare them to enter their adult years. She gave an added boost to those students who might have been struggling with the challenges of school, wanting them to feel they, too, could succeed and have a rewarding and successful adulthood. She was an inspiration and guiding force for so many and will be sorely missed.

She traveled extensively around this country, Europe and Scandinavia. She spent many winters in Florida and several in Costa Rica with her niece Catherine. She enjoyed weekends in Vermont, Old Saybrook and New York City. She was always ready to go and try something new.

Louise had many hobbies, quilting and knitting being some of her favorites. She made sweaters and Christmas stockings for all of her nieces and nephews and many of her grandnieces and nephews. She was an avid reader and a friend to all animals. She was passionate about nature and her gardens but most important was her love and care for family and friends.

Funeral services were Wednesday, April 21, in the Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland. Rev. James Reemts, Pastor, officiated. Interment followed in the family plot in the Swedish Cemetery. Family and friends called at the church Wednesday before the service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Louise can be made to the Louise M. Anderson Scholarship Fund, c/o Portland High School, 95 High St., Portland, CT 06480, or to the Zion Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, P. O. Box 202, Portland, CT 06480. To leave an online expression of sympathy, visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Portland

### Allen J. Carlson

Allen J. Carlson, 92, formerly of Coe Avenue, Portland, died Wednesday, April 14, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the husband of the late Mary Flood Carlson.

Born in Middletown, March 31, 1918, a son of the late Sven Julius and Esther A. Lindquist Carlson, he was a Middletown resident before moving to Portland, many years ago.

He worked as an energy consultant for Northeast Utilities for many years until his retirement. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church and previously had been a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Middletown. He was a veteran of World War II and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was a member of the American Legion, the Kilowatt Club, the Middletown Lodge of Elks and had served on the Swedish Cemetery Association.

Allen is survived by his daughters, Marabeth Gildersleeve of Portland, and Susan Whitney and her husband John of Longmeadow, MA; his grandchildren, Deborah Gildersleeve of Stamford, Jill Taradeina and her husband Toby of Portland, Sara Gildersleeve of Cromwell, and Ryan Whitney of Gaithersburg, MD; and his longtime friend and companion Marion Anderson of Portland. He was predeceased by his sister, Ethel Passanesi.

His family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Sunday, April 18. Funeral services were held Monday, April 19, in the Zion Lutheran Church. The Rev. James Reemts, pastor, officiated. Interment, with military honors, followed in St. Mary's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to the Special Olympics, 2666 State St. Suite 1, Hamden, CT, 06517-2232, or to the MF Flood Fund c/o Liberty Bank. For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Portland

### John S. Mosca

John S. Mosca, passed away Thursday, April 15, in Glastonbury, at the age of 81. He was born on December 20, 1928, in Middletown, and lived most of his life in the Portland-Glastonbury area.

He worked for Standard Knapp in Portland for many years, retiring later from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford.

He is survived by one daughter, Beverly Jervis from Trumbull, and one son, Ricky Mosca of Marlborough. He also leaves two sisters and four brothers, Madeline (Dolly) Footit, Mary Lou Gilbert, Albert Mosca and James Mosca, all of Middletown; Salvatore Mosca from Higganum, and Joseph (Sonny) Mosca from Clinton. He also leaves several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held in the chapel of the Brookside Crematory Chapel, 453 Christian Ln., Berlin, Saturday, April 17. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to a local charity. The Cremation Society of New England is handling arrangements.

For other information visit [www.NewEnglandCremation.com](http://www.NewEnglandCremation.com).

## East Hampton

### John Beck Jensen

John Beck Jensen, 70, of East Hampton, passed away Thursday, April 15, at Middlesex Hospital, in Middletown, after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

John was born in Montpelier, VT to the late Hans and Lillian Jensen on March 18, 1940. John graduated from Montpelier High School in 1958 and Vermont Technical College in 1960. He served in the Army National Guard from 1963-1969 and worked as a civil engineer for the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for 35 years, before retiring. Following retirement, John worked for Phoenix Soil and FEMA's Public Assistance Grants Program.

John enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and making many trips to the casino as he was an avid poker player.

John is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Haldana (Dana) and Marty Sitler of Wethersfield; son and daughter-in-law, Erik and Keri Jensen of East Hampton; beloved grandchildren, Brittany and Jessica Sitler of Wethersfield; dear friend, Kathy Wyler of East Hampton; brothers, Dick Jensen and his wife, Pat of Barre, VT, David Jensen of Michigan and Alabama, Bob Jensen of Derby, VT; sisters, Pat Pembroke of Montpelier, VT, Joyce Bourgeois and her husband, Sam of Hollister, CA; 10 nieces and nephews; and his longtime friends from the DOT and FEMA.

There date and location of a memorial celebration of John's life is to be determined. There are no calling hours.

Contact Erik at [ejensen@yahoo.com](mailto:ejensen@yahoo.com) or Dana at [danasitler@cox.net](mailto:danasitler@cox.net) for further information.

The family requests that donations in John's memory be sent to Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

## Hebron

### Barbara Smith

Barbara (Theroux) Smith, 62, of Amston, a former Bristol resident, died Sunday, April 18, at home.

Barbara was born in Bristol on May 3, 1947 and was a daughter of Edgar Theroux of Bristol and the late Olive (Mareane) Theroux. She was formerly of Bristol and has resided in Amston for the past 30 years.

She graduated from Bristol Central High School in 1967, received her Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Connecticut State University, and completed her Master's Degree at Central Connecticut State University. She was self-employed as a marriage and family therapist in the Amston/Hebron area.

Barbara had a passion for literature and the arts, she so loved her nieces and nephew, she was fond of her pets throughout the years, and appreciated her close friends: Tom, Ray, the two Pattys, and Gethyn.

In addition to her father, Barbara is survived by her two brothers and their wives, David and Sandra Theroux of Bristol, Edward and Debbie Theroux of Pascoag, RI; a sister, Patricia Quick of Rocky Hill; two nieces and a nephew Amanda, Megan, and Christopher Theroux.

Funeral services were Thursday, April 22, at St. Gregory Church, 235 Maltby St., Bristol, for a Mass of Christian Burial.

Relatives and friends called the Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Burial was at the convenience of the family in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Visit Barbara's memorial website at [www.FunkFuneralHome.com](http://www.FunkFuneralHome.com).

## Colchester

### Gary W. Harris

Gary W. Harris, 64, of Colchester, beloved husband of Bonnie, passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 21, at home after a courageous battle with cancer. Born Oct. 19, 1945 in Greenfield, MA, he was the son of the late Clifford and Dorothy (Reynolds) Harris.

He proudly served with the US Navy from 1967 to 1987, with wartime service during Vietnam and Granada. He retired at the rank of Command Master Chief at the Naval Submarine School in New London.

Gary was very active in his community. He was a member and past Commander of the Donald A. Bigelow American Legion Post 54 and was instrumental in the establishment of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 54. In addition, he was a member of the Adler-Boluck VFW Post 6990, the Colchester Republican Town Committee and the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Following his service, he went on in the private sector to engineer underwater simulators and was currently in tool repair for NEFCO in So. Windsor.

Gary loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing and tending to his meticulous yard, but his greatest joy and love was for his family.

In addition to his loving wife of 40 years, he is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Keri and Nick Shkutzko of Colchester; his grandson, Gavin; his sister, Diane Harris of Cummington, MA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call starting at noon Saturday, April 24, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Legion/VFW Memorial Service will be observed at 1:45 p.m., followed by a chapel service. Committal with full military honors will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the American Legion Post 54, P.O. Box 54, Colchester 06415 or to the Gastric Cancer Fund, 106 Towerview Ct., Cary, NC 27513.

For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### David A. Zettervall

David A. Zettervall, 57, of Colchester, beloved husband of Diane and father of Sean and Eric, passed away Tuesday, April 20, at the Hope Lodge Center in Boston after a battle with cancer. Born May 7, 1952 in Torrington, he was a son of Grace (Smith) Zettervall of Bristol and the late Bernard Zettervall.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard and went on to earn his master's degree from UConn. Since 1980, Mr. Zettervall had been a math teacher for Norwich Free Academy. In addition, he established the girls' soccer program there in 1985 and had been their coach ever since. His coaching skills were recognized as 2002 Coach of the Year by the Connecticut Girls Soccer Assn., and 2002-2003 Gatorade High School Coaches Association "Outstanding Coach Award" in Girls Soccer and he was inducted into the Southeast Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame.

Over the years, he also coached Little League and Youth Soccer in Colchester for many years. When not coaching, he was an avid fan of both the Boston Red Sox and UConn Huskies Basketball, as well as the No. 1 fan of his two boys' sports teams.

In addition to his mother, his loving wife of 29 years and his sons, he is survived by three brothers, Dennis and Daniel, both of Bristol and Donald of Old Saybrook; his mother-in-law, Ruth Paulette of Bristol; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call 5-8 p.m. today, Friday, April 23, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 24, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to NFA Athletics, 305 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360 or to the Hope Lodge Center, American Cancer Society, 125 So. Hunting-ton Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-4769.

For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Last Saturday night was a fairly big one in the sports world. The NBA playoffs had just started, and a Colorado Rockies pitcher threw the team's first no-hitter. Yet it was my Mets that dominated the headlines on the sports shows. Why?

Because they played one long baseball game.

The Mets-Cardinals game Saturday afternoon was the Fox game of the week, and it had become quite the pitchers' duel. Johan Santana was pitching for the Mets, and he was pitching like...well, like Johan Santana, and was shutting down the St. Louis offense. The Cardinals had a rookie pitcher making just his third big-league start. He was shutting down the Mets offense, but I don't know how much of that can be attributed to him and how much to the fact that the Mets were in one of their periodic funks where they can make anybody look like Cy Young.

The game was scoreless after nine innings, so it went into extras. It was still scoreless in the 11th, and that was when I left to go to the movies. After the movie got out (it was *Hot Tub Time Machine*, in case you're wondering; it was funny, and I laughed out loud a lot, but it could have been a little better) and I was driving home, I noticed the radio – which had been tuned to the Mets game as I was driving in – was still playing the game. Perhaps it was the post-game highlight show? No, it was the actual game. It was the 17th inning, and the game was still scoreless.

It was the 18th inning when I got home and flipped back on the TV. The Cardinals, having exhausted their bullpen, now had their shortstop. On the mound. Pitching. And guess what? The Mets still couldn't score. The Cardinals didn't score in the bottom half of the 18th, but at least the Mets were still using an actual relief pitcher at that point.

In the 19th, Cardinals manager Tony La Russa brought in another position player to pitch, this time an outfielder. Like the shortstop before him, he couldn't really pitch; he had difficulty finding the strike zone, and his fastball was...well, not exactly fast. And the Mets *still* had a tough time with the guy. In fact, after Jose Reyes walked to lead off the inning, Luis Castillo hit a sacrifice bunt to move him over. A sac bunt, when the team's opposing *leftfielder* was on the mound! This wasn't Tim Lincecum the Mets were facing here. Chances are Reyes could have advanced without Castillo giving up an out.

Eventually, though, the Mets did score in that 19th inning, albeit on a sacrifice fly. How you could go scoreless against a shortstop moonlighting as a pitcher and then the very

next inning notch just one run against a leftfielder moonlighting as one is kind of beyond me, but hey, at least the Mets scored, went into the bottom of the 19th up 1-0, and had their ace closer, Francisco Rodriguez, on the mound.

Only thing is, Rodriguez didn't have it, and before long, the Cardinals evened the score, thanks to an RBI single by perpetual Met-killer Yadier Molina. "Of course they tied up the game," Fox commentator Tim McCarver said incredulously as Albert Pujols crossed home plate. "Of course they did. Unbelievable."

And so it was, the game moved to the 20th inning, with leftfielder Joe Mather entering his second inning of work. Again, the Mets scraped out a run – and again, they did it on a sacrifice fly – and headed into the bottom of the inning with a one-run lead. This time, starting pitcher Mike Pelfrey was brought in to try to close things out. And he did, albeit a little shakily, and the Mets had a 2-1 victory. It just took them 20 innings to do it.

A 20 inning ballgame! To be honest, that would've been a great game to be at. I was once at a 14-inning game at Shea Stadium, and it was fun. It took on sort of a surreal aspect, and the crowd – or what was left of it – really seemed into it. And in the middle of the 14th inning, the public address guy did the seventh inning stretch again, complete with a reprise of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." It was a fun night.

I'm glad the Mets scraped out that win, even though, to be honest, it was kinda disheartening that we had three straight innings of position players pitching, and we could barely muster two runs. We should have mopped the floor with those guys. But still, it was a good win, and the relief pitching did a fantastic job holding the Cards scoreless for as long as they did.

And who knows, maybe it was the start of something for the Metropolitanans? After a tough loss the next night, the Mets got two very nice wins against the Cubs at Citi Field on Monday and Tuesday. Their record still isn't very good (6-9 after Tuesday's game), and they still really miss Carlos Beltran, but their hitting seems to be getting a little bit better – Tuesday's game gave you hope Reyes is turning back into the sparkplug we all know and love – and the recent performances of Mike Pelfrey and Jonathon Niese make one think that maybe, just maybe, there's more to this pitching staff besides Santana.

\* \* \*

See you next week.